



# CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **City Selects Sister City in Kokolopori, Democratic Republic of Congo**

FALLS CHURCH, VA. – The City of Falls Church City Council declared Kokolopori, Democratic Republic of Congo, as Falls Church City's "Sister City" at their Monday, Feb. 13 regular meeting. The partnership is designed to support mutual understanding and sustainable development between the citizens of the two cities. This partnership through Sister Cities International is integrated with Bonobo Conservation Initiative's and its Congolese partner Vie Sauvage's ongoing conservation and community development activities.

Kokolopori contains a vast community-managed forest reserve of 3000 square kilometers (apx. 1860 square miles) with numerous endemic plant and animal species, including almost 1500 bonobos—the rarest of the four great ape species. The forest is managed by Vie Sauvage and a community association representing all of Kokolopori's 25 villages, the Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve Association (KBRA). BCI is the American representative for the KBRA.

The City of Falls Church-Kokolopori sister-city partnership can be integrated with BCI and Vie Sauvage's ongoing conservation and community development activities. The establishment of a formal "Sister City" relationship through Sister Cities International makes a partner community, such as Kokolopori, more attractive to a donor or government agency and offers additional expertise in the way of consultation services from staff experts, access to instructional guides for local program development and various publications, as well as instantaneous translation of e-mails and documents. As part of these services, the City will pay approximately \$340 in annual dues to Sister Cities International.

For more information, please visit Sister Cities International at [www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org) or BCI at [www.bonobo.org](http://www.bonobo.org).

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